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SC Public Service Commission
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, SC 29210
March 11, 2010

Re: DOCKET 2009-489-E

Commissioners;

Another rate increase for SCE&G (SCANA)? Why now?

Why now, at a time when our SC citizens [and the Nation] wrestle with the catastrophically potential economical decline, unemployment, and pending damaging mandated Federal legislation?

Why now, when legislated regulations at every level (excepting the Federal Government) are pending that will certainly cause a multitude of unknown costs, tax increases, loss of services, budget cuts, probable inflation, and that will demand adjustments in the very basics of our living standards?

Why now, when SCANA increases the dividend of their common stock by 1.1% for stock holders, and, in December 2009 (just a few short months ago), purchased all outstanding Preferred stock for a total \$113.4 million cash that they had on hand? Have they capped or reduced employee compensation levels and laid off workers as many of the private businesses have? Are they making every effort to become more efficient and hold the current rates to the consumer?

Why now, when SCANA is already at the top of the list to receive a Federal Loan Guarantee (our tax money) to add reactors to the nuclear plant in Fairfield County that hasn't even been permitted yet?

And lastly, Why should this Winter's cold weather impact on costs to the customer not be considered when you estimate the impact of SCE&G's rate increase request? Can they now predict what this coming summer's or next winter's temperatures will bring us?

Really? And if SCANA already has approval for rate hikes thru 2019, isn't this "piling on!"

Please deny this rate increase request. I would also suggest the the Commission enact a three-year moratorium on Utility rate increases/changes pending substantial improvements in the economical state of South Carolina and of the Nation.

Thank you for your time and consideration


David J. Hedges